



ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Studies in 2 Corinthians

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

Public Enemy #1 2 Corinthians 10-11

In the 1930s FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, utilized the phrase “public enemy” to describe those criminals who were a great menace to society. The worst would be public enemy #1. Paul, in this week’s study, points to pride as the spiritual “public enemy #1” and proceeds to demolish it in various ways. First, he reveals God’s way of conquering pride, personified by the meekness and gentleness of Christ which he imitated. He then conducted war against pride with spiritual weapons by destroying speculations and the pride that fought against the knowledge of God. He also purposed to take captive all thoughts for obedience to Christ. Some at Corinth, though, accused Paul of boldness only when absent, but he declared his integrity wherever he was. His only desire

was to boast in the Lord, and not to abuse his authority and exalt himself. Next, Paul engaged in confronting disloyalty to him by some at Corinth. He was jealous for their purity in Christ, being willing to foolishly talk about himself so they would remain true to Christ, to whom they were betrothed. He knew that they could be easily misled, just as the serpent had misled Eve, because they had “beautifully” endured those who taught a false gospel. He judged that they had discredited him because he didn’t demand financial support, as if he were worth nothing. He refused to change, though, because this was his opportunity to show how different he was from the false apostles who were involved in ministry for money. They were like Satan, disguising themselves as angels of



Authentic Christianity is fleshed out in our personal experiences

light. Paul then embarked on comparing his credentials with these false apostles, even though this was unlike Christ and foolish to him. In the physical sense he had a religious pedigree equal to the best of them. Spiritually, he had shown his commitment by enduring incredible physical hardship for Christ, as well as bearing the spiritual burden of strugglers. His only boast would be with regard to his weakness, exemplified by the humiliation he endured early as a Christian when he had to be let down in a basket to escape his persecutors in Syria. So, both in word and actions Paul fought against pride, public enemy #1.

Study Questions for 2 Corinthians 10-11

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read II Cor 10:1-3. What charges had some made about Paul (v1, 2) and how did he respond to both (v1, 2)? What did he refuse to do (v3)?</p>	
<p>2. From 10:4-6 what were Paul’s weapons like (v4) and what were they destroying (v4)? Describe these fortresses (strongholds) in v5? What was the goal (v5, 6)? Explain.</p>	
<p>3. In 10:7-11 what mistake had Corinth made about Paul (v7, 10) and what did he know (v7, 11)? What did he not want to do (v9) and why (v8)? What principle does this reveal for us?</p>	

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2 Corinthians 10-11 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. According to 10:12-18 what would Paul not do and why (v12, 13)? What had Paul done right (v14-16) and what confidence did this give him (v17-18)? Apply.</p>	
<p>5. Based on 11:1-6 how did Paul feel about them (v1-2) and why (v2)? What was his fear about them (v3-4)? Why did they look down on Paul (v6), but what was true (v5-6)?</p>	
<p>6. In 11:7-11 how had Paul humbled himself before them (v7-9) and why (v11)? How had they taken this (v7)? What were his ongoing plans about this practice (v9, 10)?</p>	
<p>7. From 11:12-15 why did Paul plan to keep refusing monetary support (v12)? How did this contrast with false apostles (v13, 15)? Who was this like (v14) and what does this teach us?</p>	
<p>8. Using 11:16-21 how did Corinth regard boasters (v19-20) and how did Paul view boasting, even in himself (v16, 18)? Who was this unlike (v17)? So why did he do it (v21)?</p>	
<p>9. Continuing in 11:22-29 what were Paul's credentials (v22, 23)? Specifically what suffering had Paul endured physically (v23-27) and spiritually (v28-29)?</p>	
<p>10. Looking at 11:30-33 what had Paul determined to "boast" about (v30) and how did he underscore his sincerity (v31)? What story exemplified this "weakness" (v32-33—see Acts 9:23-25)?</p>	
<p>11 Looking back at 2 Cor 10-11 how did Paul try to conquer pride in his converts (10:4-6) and confront their disloyalty (10:7, 11, 15-18, 11:2-6)? What were Paul's credentials (11:6, 12, 22-30)? Using his example, what can you learn about cultivating humility?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

"No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness...."

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—*Bury the Dead? (Not a Fan, Week 4)*

(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Open by talking about what it means to compartmentalize your spiritual convictions and your everyday activities. Give examples. How is this possible?
2. Reflect on the video. What held Anna back from joining her husband in his full blown following of Jesus? How do you feel about the way Eric tried to lead his family to be followers of Jesus? Finally, where do you think Anna's heart is at the end of this episode?
3. Read Luke 9:57-62. Why do you think Jesus is so demanding here? How would you characterize each person he dialogues with?
4. Discuss the three answers Jesus gave to these people. Compare this with the way He responded to the rich young ruler. What is the point for our lives?
5. Talk about the meaning of the cross in Jesus' day. How does this relate to the statement "Following is not trying, but dying everyday"? What is the most challenging aspect of dying everyday for you?
6. Why do people refuse to follow "today", choosing rather to hit the snooze alarm and wait until tomorrow? What would it take for you to follow right now?
7. Close in prayer for each person to take that decisive step to follow Jesus *today*.